



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CONSOLIDATED BUSINESS CENTER.  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

**For Immediate Release**

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## **DOE and EPA Sign Interagency Agreement to Study Area IV of Santa Susana Field Laboratory**

**Canoga Park, CA** – The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today signed an Interagency Agreement (IAG) for EPA to conduct a study to determine the radiological background of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) and to prepare the cost, scope, and schedule for the first phase of a radioactive site characterization. This is the first step in fulfilling a Congressional requirement in Pub. L. No. 110-161, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, which directed DOE to “enter into an interagency agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a joint comprehensive radioactive site characterization of Area IV of the SSFL.”

“The Department of Energy is pleased that this Interagency Agreement (IAG) has been successfully created, and by executing the IAG prior to August 1, EPA will be able to begin its sampling work under the agreement by Fall 2008,” said Thomas Johnson, Federal Project Director, Energy Technology Engineering Center.

Information from the radiological background study, which will determine the naturally occurring levels of radiation for the surrounding area of the lab, and from the future radiological site characterization, will be used to develop an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that DOE is preparing for the remediation of Area IV (a 290-acre portion of the 2850-acre SSFL). As part of the interagency agreement, DOE has transferred \$1.5 million from Fiscal Year 2008 budget appropriations to EPA to execute this work.

The 2,850-acre SSFL, located in the hills between Chatsworth and Simi Valley, California, is owned by The Boeing Company and by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. A majority of the facilities have been removed, with approximately 20 facilities remaining for cleanup. SSFL was developed as a remote site to test rocket engines and conduct nuclear research. The Energy Technology Engineering Center (ETEC), located on 90 acres within SSFL Area IV, is where nuclear research was conducted until 1988. The former Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), began conducting

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nuclear research in the 1950s on nuclear powered space vehicles and sodium coolant mediums at 10 small reactors at ETEC within Area IV, which represents one-tenth of the entire SSFL site. For additional information on the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management and ETEC, visit: <http://www.em.doe.gov> and <http://www.etec.energy.gov/>.

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